

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



May 7, 2009

Dr. John P. Holdren
Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Dr. Holdren:

The President's FY 2010 budget request reflects this Administration's commitment to a vigorous and exciting space program. It advances NASA's mission to drive innovation, discovery, and the transformation of knowledge in science, aeronautics, and exploration to meet our future challenges. The request also recognizes that a robust human space flight capability is essential to the Nation's security and vitality.

Per your letter of May 7, and to confirm that NASA is on the right path forward, I will establish a blue-ribbon committee for the Review of U.S. Human Space Flight Plans. This committee will operate pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.

Norman R. Augustine, who has a distinguished record of public service and is a leader in the aerospace community, will chair the Committee. I have also established an internal team to assist the Committee that will be led by Dr. W. Michael Hawes, NASA's Associate Administrator for Program Analysis and Evaluation.

Mr. Augustine and his committee will conduct a comprehensive review guided by the objectives outlined in your letter. Throughout the review, the Committee will also address workforce, transition, industrial base, and funding considerations.

During this activity, the NASA workforce will continue to focus on the safe flight and operation of the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station and to move forward with the Ares I, Orion, and related elements to assure that we maintain the robust capabilities required for human space flight.

I believe the FY 2010 budget request and independent review provide an opportunity to reaffirm America's destiny in space and enable us to make the

choices necessary to secure our preeminence in space exploration, scientific discovery, and technical innovation. I look forward to working with you and the review team to make this future a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. J. Scolese", followed by a long horizontal line.

Christopher J. Scolese
Acting Administrator